

O'Connell, Sue

From: Boon Moua [boon.moua@students.msbcollege.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 8:41 PM
To: O'Connell, Sue
Subject: Reimbursing Youth Homes

3/12/12

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Sue O'Connell
Montana Legislature
Montana Legislative Services Division
Children and Families Health and Human Services Interim Committee

Dear Research Analyst:

I am writing as a constituent to encourage you to support fair rates for reimbursement to youth service providers. Currently, state rates do not adequately cover the cost of care for youth residing within Youth Homes. Raising additional money to cover basic needs for children is difficult, especially in our economy today. Cost of living adjustments are critical for our youth that need guidance and shelter that are provided by the youth homes.

I am currently a student at Minnesota School of Business, and I want to share with you my concerns about the importance of fair reimbursement for Youth Homes and the importance that reimbursement rates keep up with cost of living increases. In 2001, I was placed at Tom Roy Youth Guidance Home until I graduated from Sentinel High School in 2003. I am concerned that a lack of monetary reimbursement for Youth Homes would affect the youths tremendously. Youth that come to these youth homes are usually troubled youths and come from broken homes. Youth Homes provides structure and guidance to help each and every youth that needs a place to call home for the time being. Increasing the rate of reimbursement for providers will result in a safe home and provide good quality care for our youths.

Sincerely,

Boon Moua